

SECRET

REF-1543-99

30 APR 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Branch, DFD-DD/P
THROUGH : Chief, Administrative Branch, DFD-DD/P 25X1A
SUBJECT : CHALICE Operations, (C-124 Transport of [REDACTED])

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1. As you are aware, the Office of Security provided two Security Officers to assist this Division in the movement of two [REDACTED] between Edwards Air Force Base and Atsugi Naval Air Station. The movement was initiated on 29 January 1959, at Edwards AFB with NAFS C-124 airlift.

2. I am sure you heard that the transport aircraft experienced take-off difficulty during this operation. The initial verbal account suggested overloading of the aircraft. Further particulars were requested and a copy of the report is attached.

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3. We probably cannot determine whether the difficulty encountered should be attributed to a mistake in cargo weight or to other factors. Furthermore, all persons concerned clearly recognize the aircraft commander is the final authority regarding air worthiness of his aircraft. Nevertheless, I feel it is necessary to point out this situation suggests a set of circumstances which could result in a serious security incident, in addition to loss of life and Government property. If the transport cargo weight of a [REDACTED] in fact exceeds that listed by the manufacturer, someone has been negligent and corrective steps are in order. If the [REDACTED] weight was properly manifested, then, it would seem that the C-124 involved (No. 10135) was not functioning properly.

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4. In view of your Branch responsibility for Division flight operations, I would appreciate your review of the attachment and your comments as to whether or not a flying safety deficiency exists regarding weight control in our cargo transport procedures. In keeping with his interest in this matter a copy of this memorandum and its attachment have been forwarded to Chief, Material Branch, DFD-DD/P.

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[REDACTED]

Security Officer
DFD-DD/P

Attachment:
Extract from Security Report

Distribution: Orig & 1 - addressee 1 - AG/DFD 1 - C/Material 1 - C/Admin

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